



# NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

## A Way in the Wilderness

By Steve Liversedge

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19

At a recent ER meeting, President Paul Braun closed in prayer using a phrase that caught my attention: “...like we’ve never done before.” He was referring to a whole list of ways God is blessing us, including prayer, funding, ministry tools, ministry places, and people on the ground.

**Prayer** - Since March 2020, we have been praying on Zoom with partners and friends for 1,074 days. It’s no coincidence that the numbers we have trained have increased dramatically over this period.

**Funding** - God has supplied us with faithful and generous donors so that we are not lacking in carrying out the work He puts before us.

**Ministry Tools** - The PBS Teacher Training Seminar (PBSTTS) has become a new and effective ministry tool. We are poised to have an impact like never before with the seminar now online in English, French, Hindi, and Mandarin.

**Ministry Places** - Portable Bible Schools (PBSes) and Schools of Evangelism (SOEs) are opening for the first time in several Arab countries of northern Africa and

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How God has made a way for ER to launch ministries in areas of “spiritual wilderness”

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Update on the status of six new India SOEs reported on in the last issue of News From the Fields

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Contributions given in honor of three friends of Evangelism Resources



# A Way in the Wilderness

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the Middle East as well as increasing in India.

**People on the Ground** - Finally, a very important asset are the people on the ground, which include our partners and the record numbers who have been trained in the first eight months of this year, surpassing the total for all of 2022. It all makes me think of Isaiah 43:19 (see p.1). At ER, praise His Name, we are truly seeing God do new things and making ways in the wilderness.

In 2015, at the invitation of our partner in Hong Kong and in obedience to God's call, we went to China for the first time to teach a group of Christian leaders about Portable Bible Schools. During that trip and three more, God did something new in developing a core team and a network of committed PBS teachers. Right after our last visit in 2017, the government of China tightened the screws and shut down churches. Believers returned to little house, or "family," churches. It was amazing to us how God had used ER to help establish PBS training in China and to supply hundreds, perhaps thousands, of house churches with the leadership they lacked.

This year, as we were preparing to

take the PBSTTS to Kinshasa, our Hong Kong partner challenged us to join him and the Lord in doing something new in the Middle East. He asked us to bring the PBSTTS to Cyprus, but when visa problems prevented that, to Turkey. Our teaching team, from the United States, India, China, and Africa, met on Zoom over several months to prepare for the two trips. As we talked, I realized that we represented a microcosm of the Great Commission Jesus gave to the Church. When Jesus gave that command, our countries were truly at "the ends of the earth," without any knowledge of God's plan of redemption.

There were hiccups, such as when the Iranian delegation said they couldn't come as their government had gotten wind of their plans and they feared for their families should they leave. We forged ahead; even if we had no Iranians we would train the Turks and any Iranian refugees who could join us, and that is exactly what happened. The team gathered on August 6 in Izmir, formerly Smyrna, Turkey. This was the very place where one of the seven churches of Revelation existed!

There were 11 Turkish delegates and four Iranians, along with several observers. We taught them methods of evangelism, how to teach the books of the Bible, how to preach, how to pastor, and how to live holy lives. Having completed the six-day training, we had the amazing opportunity to visit the sites of the seven churches of Revelation. We walked in the footsteps of the apostles, stood in the agora (meeting place) where the riot began in Ephesus, and visited the theater where Gaius and Aristarchus were seized by an angry mob. I will never again read the Bible in the same way. Pray with us for the delegates as they put into practice the new skills they've learned, and for open doors to take the PBSTTS to additional locations.

## Making a Way in the Wilderness

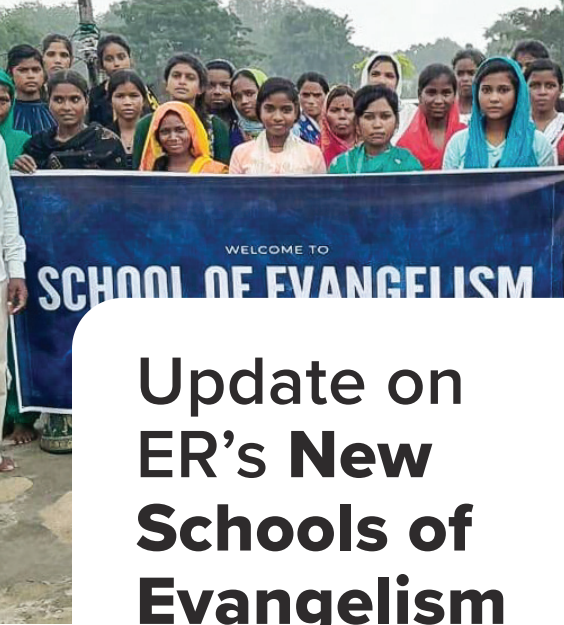
How appropriate it is that our Hong Kong partner has renamed the Portable Bible School as the Wilderness Shepherd Training

Seminar. For obvious reasons, it would not be wise to publicly use the word Bible in atheist China or in the Muslim-majority Middle East. On the other hand, how appropriate to use the word wilderness in areas where the Church is almost nonexistent, in the spiritual deserts we call the 10/40 Window, home to thousands of unreached people groups desperately in need of leadership for burgeoning house church movements. Join us in prayer and in any other way God might call on you to participate to do a new thing and make a way in the wilderness all for His glory. ■



A team of teachers from the US, China, India, and the Congo (DRC) travelled to Turkey to lead the PBSTTS for a group of 15 Turkish and Iranian delegates.





# Update on ER's New Schools of Evangelism

By Paul Braun

“Therefore said He unto them, ‘The harvest is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest field.’” (Luke 10:2)

In our last News from the Fields we announced the anticipated opening of six new Schools of Evangelism (SOEs) in India to raise up and train many more laborers for the harvest fields. Two had already opened, in northern Assam and in southern Bihar.

## Nagpur & Nagaland

Pray for the openings of the third and fourth new schools, to take place September 15 in Nagpur and October 1 in Nagaland.

## Odisha

Another new SOE was to have opened in August in western Odisha but is postponed because of

pressure on our partnering Indian mission by the government. Pray with us that the obstacles will be removed or overcome.

## Chhattisgarh

Finally, pray that plans for the sixth new SOE, in Chhattisgarh, will progress. I expect to travel to this state in November and hope a timeline will be agreed to for the opening of this new school.

Thank you sincerely for praying with us for these new frontier-mission leadership-training schools! They are all in spiritual war zones, where victories are won only when covered in prayer.

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## Memorial Gifts

Contributions were received in loving memory of:

Rev. Howard Reynolds of Lexington, KY from his wife, Dee Reynolds, also of Lexington, and the Howard and Dee Reynolds Foundation;

Dr. Rex A. McConell of Nicholasville, KY from his wife Nancy McConnell, also of Nicholasville, and from Hopewill Gospel Ministries of Burgin, KY;

Katherine Frazier of Boise, ID from her daughter, Margaret Canfield, also of Boise, and from Bill and Janet Canfield, of Meridian, ID.